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6/6 Meeting on Yentah River Problem.

Attend- Bart _____ (BIA), William McConkie (BIA)
Sonny Von (Tribe), Bill Christiansen. (River Commission).
Bob Lease, Mike Qualey, John Mayne, Bob Morgan.

Calvin Hackford is a mixed blood - he inherited some Indian land from his grandfather. ~~Karen treated before her Indian descent project~~ Some of the land is included in the ~~the~~ Yentah Indian Irrigation Project (approx 32 acres). However, he is not paying his assessments and so they won't deliver ~~the~~ water to him. Instead - he feels he can then pump directly from the river. However - he is irrigating much more than 32 acres (maybe several hundred). The other lands are questionable as to their water rights - they were shown in Deckers listing of group 5 lands in the Yentah Basin but supposedly are not covered by the Ute Indian Compact or in the deferral agreement. William McConkie thinks they cannot be group 5 lands if they are fee patent lands (in the 1950's the tribe formally cut off any Indian rights for those who was less than 50% Indian - in this process the mixed bloods (< 50%) were allowed to keep the allotment lands they had title to plus the appurtenant water (32 acres in Calvin case) - they were also paid for any rights they had in the lands the Indians held as a group - if they received this payment then they should have no more interest in any group 5 lands). Some possibility that Calvin contends they are group 5 lands and he is entitled

To a water right under the Winters Doctrine involving practically
invaluable ~~water~~ (PIA). William thinks there is a possibility they
could win such a lawsuit in Federal Court.

There are 2 federal Decrees in the area (which interestingly
were ~~ever~~ decreed to define state issued water rights).
The first one sets up a commission for the area and defines
how to distribute the ~~the~~ water rights (state issued certificate).
In the second one ~~the~~ the Fed Court removes itself from the role
of administering the commission's duties. For the last 50 years
the commission has been acting without either Federal or State
jurisdiction. The water users essentially have been policing themselves.

Calvin is the ringleader for a group of mixed bloods - including
some named Le Baron - ~~but~~ mostly interrelated. Wants to fight
the Winters Doctrine issue in court.

The BIA may just dam off the river above Calvin's property
(the last Uintah Indian Proj. Project diversion is just above
the Hackford property - can dry dam the river), and take
all the water through their laterals. Any other rights below.
~~Calvin~~ Calvin would have been cut off by priority anyway
Calvin may try to take out the dry dam - maybe violently
or he may try to sue the BIA in court. They will
set up the dry dam with BIA ~~and~~ police officers on hand.

If Calvin won a Winters Doctrine right for his additional land some discussion about whether the land would be included as part of ~~that~~ ~~the~~ the group 5 lands shown in the Inter-Indian Compact or whether they would be additional to those acres shown. BIA wants to say they would be additional to the compact - this would give the State a stake in ~~contesting to make some~~ fighting ~~to~~ any suit Calvin might bring.

The mixed bloods have filed claims in the general adjudication of the area.